D 9564 (c)

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CONFIDENTIAL

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. REGISTRY No. S. B. D. 7640

S. 1, Special Br. ~~Sixxxxx~~

REPORT

Date Dec. 20th, 1939.

Subject: Arthur Gottlieb - communication from H.B.M. Consulate General dated December 1, 1939.

Made by D. S. Fitts Forwarded by D. I. Crawford

Commissioner's Secretary

C. Crawford

In regard to the advertisement that appeared in the North-China Daily News dated November 23, 1939 calling for young ladies above sixteen years of age to be engaged for a dancing ensemble, lengthy enquiries have revealed that Arthur Gottlieb, the Hungarian ex-manager of the now defunct "Pelican" Night Club, had the intention of organizing a troupe of dancers to tour Hongkong, Manila, Netherlands East Indies, Malaya and India. The response to his advertisement has been very poor and numerous obstacles have cropped up since he inserted the notice, he having found that at the present time in the shape of securing visae for travel to the locales mentioned.

CONFIDENTIAL

To HBM C.G. for his information 7 Dec 2

Gottlieb is quite an experienced man in the training of dancing troupes and he thoroughly knows his business in the organization of such ensembles, and although in an interview he stated that he had inserted the advertisement on behalf of a Hungarian named Belotai, now employed with the Cathay Hotels, there is little doubt that it was his intention to conduct the troupe for his own benefit. At any rate he has temporarily dropped the entire idea and is shortly returning to Tsingtao to arrange suitable accomodation for his mother, who is due to arrive in this city from Europe in the near future.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE 20 DEC. 1939 COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. .....

REPORT

- 2 -

..... Station,

Date..... 19

Subject.....

Made by..... Forwarded by.....

Gottlieb is a refugee who has been in Shanghai for some twelve months. He is quite a clever man and investigation shows that he is in possession of a fair amount of cash. He cannot be termed an honest individual as a perusal of the attached file on his conduct at the "Pelican" Night Club will show, but despite his failings in this connection, the Cathay Hotel management still speak very highly of his business acumen and regard him more as a fool than a knave.

Nothing is known to this office of his activities in Europe and though he has seen fit to declare to me his innocence of the matter in which he was involved at the "Pelican" he has persistently refused to make any type of statement to the Police. He realizes full well that all his movements are now regarded by this office with a certain amount of suspicion and should anything be learned in the future that in any way reflects on his character, a subsequent report will be immediately submitted.

J. Giles

D. S.

D. C. (Special Branch)

1 453

December 2, 39.

Sir Herbert Phillips, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.,
H.B.M. Consul-General,
H.B.M. Consulate General,
S H A N G H A I.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir Herbert:

In reply to your note of December 1, 1939, in regard to an advertisement in the "North-China Daily News", this is already under investigation by the Special Branch. The advertiser, Gottlieb, was formerly Manager of "The Pelican", and was dismissed when it was found that his accounts were not in order, and he had been making considerable personal profits on the side.

As I understand it, Sir Victor Sassoon gave no publicity in the matter owing to Gottlieb being a refugee, so this is, to some extent, confidential. Further enquiries are being made and a report will be forwarded to you.

Sp Br.
Plan Finance

Yours sincerely,

SHANGHAI 2 - DEC. 1939 COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Sd. K. M. Bourne.

Commissioner of Police.

IW/.

BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL,
SHANGHAI.

December 1st, 1939.

Dear Bourne,

I enclose a copy of an advertisement which appeared in the North China Daily News on November 23rd. At best it sounds suspicious and at worst it savours of White Slave traffic. I understand from the Advertising Manager of the North China Daily News that it was inserted by one Gottlieb, who resides at the address given, and that they were satisfied it was above board. I had difficulty however in eliciting the grounds for their satisfaction, and I should be grateful if you could look into the matter and let me know who this Gottlieb person is and what is the real nature of his activities.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Phillips

Major K.K. Bourne, M.C.,
Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Council,
SHANGHAI.

CTH

FM. 2
G. 90M. 4-39

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Section I, Special Branch.

REPORT

File No. D.9564(C)

Date December 4, 1939.

Subject Arthur GOTTLIEB, ex-manager of Pelican Night Club, Cathay Hotel.

Made by D. S. Pitts. *Forwarded by* D. I. Crawford.

I attach herewith a copy of a statement signed by Arthur GOTTLIEB, Hungarian Jewish refugee, the former manager of the Pelican Night Club at the Cathay Hotel.

The statement, which is in the form of a confession, is self-explanatory and was made in the presence of Dr. O. Fischer, well known local lawyer.

This confession was the result of complaints made by numerous patrons of the Pelican Night Club, especially in September and October of this year of the excessive prices being charged.

On November 5, 1939 on instructions from the D. C. (Special Branch), GOTTLIEB was interrogated by the undersigned in respect of these charges and his room in the Cathay Hotel was searched after he had been found trying to smuggle cigarettes and liquor from the hotel premises.

The value of liquor and cigarettes found in his room amounted to $1857.20.

The Cathay Hotel management, in the shape of Sir Victor Sassoon, did not desire to press home a charge in the event of GOTTLIEB making a full confession. This was explained to GOTTLIEB who, after he had discussed the matter with his legal adviser, Dr. O. FISCHER, made the attached statement in Fischer's office.

At no time was GOTTLIEB coerced into

making a confession. He was even advised that the making of a statement was a purely voluntary gesture on his part.

GOTTLIEB was discharged from the Pelican Night Club after making his statement and is now living at 7 Columbia Road.

D. S.

D. C. (Special Branch).

SHANGHAI, November 9, 1939.

Manager,

Cathay Hotel Ltd.

Shanghai.

Dear Sir:

Referring to my position as Manager of the Cafe Night Club and to the unfortunate happenings there I wish to make the following statement:

1) I admit that I have sur-charged bills of some of the guests in my capacity as Manager of the Cafe Night Club.

2) When the sur-charge was made on cigars, cigarettes, bottles of wine and champagne, I used to take a part of the same to my room.

3) I also admit that I have surcharged some of the bills of guests with drinks served by the glass, such as Whiskey-Soda, Brandy-Soda, Liqueurs, etc. For these drinks I used to keep an account with the Bar Boy and when the value of such drinks amounted to a certain sum, to cover two or three bottles of Whiskey, etc. I took out of the bar nearly as many bottles as would cover the amount of the individual overcharged drinks.

4) That I have been doing this overcharging of bills either with full bottles or with separate drinks since on or about the 15th March 1939 and have continued at intervals so to do up to the time of my dismissal.

5) That the bottles thus removed by me to my room No.626 Cathay Hotel, are those found there on Sunday, 5th November, viz. 15 bottles Bollinger, 5 bottles Pommery e Greno, Vintage, 1 bottle Pommery e Greno Sec, 3 bottles Veuve Clicquot, 2 bottles Berncasteler, to which have to be added the bottles found in my possession when leaving the Hotel, about 12.30 p.m. on Sunday, 5th November 1938, viz. 2 bottles Martell's Brandy, 1 bottle Gordon Gin, 38 Craven "A" Cigarettes (20's) and about 1 bottle of Red Wine, 8-9 bottles Liquors and Whiskey which I gave to third parties as presents and 2-3 bottles of Liquors which were consumed in my room. For all other drinks consumed in my room I have duly signed chits for the same.

6) I swear and confirm that I have not sold neither inside nor outside of the Hotel any of these goods but except those found in my room and/or consumed there I have made presents of the same to friends and/or refugees, not knowing whether such persons were using them for their own consumption or for any other purposes. It is for this very reason that I felt and was under the impression that I was not stealing or doing anything illegal in making these surcharges and removing the bottles to my room and I therefore in no way whatsoever have been acting for the purposes of personal profit or gain.

My sole intention and aim was to increase the takings of the Pelican Night Club, not deriving thereby even an increase in my share of commission as the turnover reached by me was much more than twice than required.

7) I am now absolutely convinced that no one of the Management knew of my doings and I deeply and sincerely regret the great and foolish mistake made by me and I beg for the leniency of the Directors of the Cathay Hotel Ltd. for not putting the case in Court owing to my situation as a refugee, having my wife to support and also my mother and sister for whom I have obtained a landing permit in Shanghai from the Shanghai Municipal Council.

8) I furthermore and finally declare that I have no claim of whatever kind or nature against the Cathay Hotel Ltd.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed by Mr.A.Gottlieb in my presence "Dr. A. Fischer" Barrister-at-Law. Shanghai, 9th November 1939).

(Sgd) Arthur Gottlieb

CONFIDENTIAL
DRAWER

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 9504(c)
Date 29 12 39

British Consulate-General,
Shanghai.
December 29th 1939.

Dear Bourne,

Many thanks for your letter of December the 21st forwarding a copy of a report on the subject of Gottlieb.

It would appear from this report that Gottlieb is experienced in the training of dancing troupes, and that there is accordingly no reason to believe that he had any ulterior motive in inserting the advertisement in question. In these circumstances I propose to take no further action in the matter.

With many thanks for your assistance,

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Phillips

Major K.M. Bourne, M.C.,
Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Council,
SHANGHAI.

S/B
File

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
12 DEC. 1939
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

D. 9-641c

CONFIDENTIAL

December 21, 39.

Sir Herbert Phillips, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.,
H.B.M. Consul General,
H.B.M. Consulate-General,
S H A N G H A I.

Dear Sir Herbert:

Further to my note of December 2, 1939, I forward herewith copy of report concerning the activities of Gottlieb.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. K. M. Bourne.
Commissioner of Police.

IW/.

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December 21, 39.

Sir Herbert Phillips, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.,
H.B.M. Consul General,
H.B.M. Consulate-General,
S H A N G H A I.

Dear Sir Herbert:

Further to my note of December 2, 1939, I forward herewith copy of report concerning the activities of Gottlieb.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. K. M. Bourne.
Commissioner of Police.

IW/.

CONFIDENTIAL
FILE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 9864 (C)
Date 29-2-30